

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8616

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

UNCLAS TOKYO 5806

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: SDF CHIEF REACTS TO CONNALLY SUPPORT OF REARMAMENT

1. JOHN CONNALLY'S CALL FOR JAPANESE REARMAMENT DREW AN IMMEDIATE NEGATIVE REACTION FROM ADMIRAL SAMEJIMA, CHIEF OF THE SELF DEFENSE FORCES JOINT STAFF COUNCIL IN ONE OF HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE ASSUMING THE POST. CONNALLY, MENTIONED OCCASIONALLY HERE AS A FUTURE CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY OF STATE, RECEIVED HEADLINES MONDAY FOR AN INTERVIEW IN NEWSWEEK IN WHICH HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID: "AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WE OUGHT TO ASK THE JAPANESE TO ENGAGE IN A SUBSTANTIAL REARMAMENT OF THEIR PEOPLE. THEY CAN BE A VERY GREAT STABILIZING FORCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." SAMEJIMA REPLIED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT WOULD BE "A VERY POLITICAL STATEMENT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE POLITICAL REALITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND I DON'T THINK EVERY AMERICAN SHARES THAT VIEW."

2. SAMEJIMA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF THE SDF ARE DETERMINED BY "POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, NOT BE PURE MILITARY NEEDS." AND "IN THIS REALITY, THE MOST IMPERATIVE AND BASIC QUESTION FOR THE MORALE OF THE SOLDIERS IS TO

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TIVE AND BASIC QUESTION FOR THE MORALE OF THE SOLDIERS IS TO

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT US, NOT TO EXPAND OUR MILITARY MIGHT." SAMEJIMA FORTHRIGHTLY DECLARED THAT "IN THE REALITY OF POLITICS AND OUR OWN CAPABILITIES, WE WILL HAVE TO REMAIN DEPENDENT ON THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY A MAJOR STRATEGIC ROLE FOR JAPAN'S SECURITY."

3. WE HAVE SEEN NO EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR, AND DO NOT EXPECT MUCH FURTHER REACTION BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT LEAST UNTIL DIET INTERPELLATIONS RESUME.
HODGSON

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